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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/588,894	04/12/2007	Francesco Ranzoni	J1036.0018/P018	4091
24998	7590	09/18/2009	EXAMINER	
DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO LLP 1825 EYE STREET NW Washington, DC 20006-5403				ROBINSON, DANIEL LEON
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3742				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
09/18/2009		PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/588,894	RANZONI, FRANCESCO	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	DANIEL L. ROBINSON	3742	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 8-10-2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.  
     4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 12-15 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-11 and 16-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
     a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
         1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
         2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
         3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .                                    |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8-10-2006</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
|  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .                        |

***Response to Preliminary Amendment***

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-10, 16-19, 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Scharsig DE4312683.

Document DE-A-4312683 discloses (see in particular col. 4, line-58 - col. 5, line 36; col. 5, lines 48 - 52; col. 5, line 65 - col. 6, line 5; col. 7, lines 1 5-29) a device for heating liquids (and in particular milk) comprising all independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-10, 16-19, 21- 23 features.

In particular said DE-A-4312683 discloses a heating element (11) adapted to reducing the power supplied over time with the increasing temperature of the liquid (see col. 5, lines 32-36). Furthermore it discloses an aluminum thermal diffuser (13) and a thermal sensor (1-6) to disconnect the heating element upon reaching a pre\- determined temperature (see col. 2, lines 50-54), as well as a closing element (Aussengeh&use 18: col. 5, lines 65 - col. 6, line 6) adapted to housing the heating element, the thermal sensor, the thermal diffuser and-an electrical connecter (20). It discloses also a layer of conductive paste between the heating element and the thermal diffuser and between the thermal diffuser and the bottom (see col. 5, lines 48-52).

Claims 11 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Scharsig.

The additional features disclosed in dependent claims 11,20 seem to relate merely to constructional measures coming within the scope of the customary practice followed by persons skilled in the art and involving no unexpected effects.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 12-15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The feature of claim 12 that the thermal sensor is in contact with the container through an aperture in the thermal diffuser is neither disclosed nor suggested in the available state of the art. The subject-matter of dependent claim-12 is therefore new and involve an inventive step over the available state of the art, as well as claims 13-15, which are dependent on said claim 12.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DANIEL L. ROBINSON whose telephone number is (571)272-4788. The examiner can normally be reached on m-f 5:30-2:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tu B Hoang can be reached on 571-272-4780. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Dlr  
/Daniel L Robinson/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3742